



Henry Ossawa Tanner, "The Annunciation," 1898

# Worship for the Lord's Day

# **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

December 24, 2023 9:30 am

**Prelude** O Come, All Ye Faithful arr. Cindy Berry

**Words of Welcome** Rev. Beth Freese Dammers

\*Opening Words Michele Vickery

One: How does a weary world rejoice?

All: We sing songs of hope.

We allow hope to change us, to strengthen us.

We tell the stories of what could be.

We listen for God's word.

We resist the temptation to give up or give in.

We remember Mary's song.

We gather for worship.

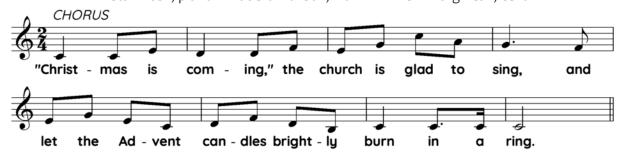
We hope.

We hope.

Against all odds, we hope.

One: Friends, this is the day that the Lord is still making. Let us worship holy God.

Chorus: Congregation Verses 1 - 4, duet, Abby Petersen and Julia Lorenz Tristan Rush, piano • Robert Monson, violin • Willem Marginean, cello



**Lighting of the Advent Candle** Julia Lorenz, Robert Monson, Abby Petersen, Willem Marginean, Tristan Rush

Call to Confession Michele

One: Family of faith, we all know that a small group of convicted people can change the world. That's how it's always been. People like Mary, people like Zechariah, people like John the Baptist.

And yet, we rarely feel like we can be one of those people. We downplay our ability to make a difference. We choose pessimism over optimism. We sweep hope under the rug for the sake of realism. We forget the words to Mary's song.

Fortunately for us, our God carries enough hope and grace for all of us. So let us go to God in prayer. Let us speak the truth of our lives, and let that honesty change us. Friends, let us pray:

# **Prayer of Confession**

All: Holy God, more days than not, hope feels like the rain. We try to hold onto it with cupped hands, but eventually, it slips right on through. Forgive us for holding hope so loosely. Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to define tomorrow. We know that this world needs people of hope, so today we pray: turn us into those people. Teach us how to sing Mary's song of hope for the world. With open hearts we pray, amen.

#### **Assurance of God's Grace**

One: Body of Christ, no matter how many times we let hope slip through our fingers, we still belong to God. So let us share these truths.

All: I am God's beloved.

I am forgiven.

I am blessed and sent to serve.

One: This is the good news of the Gospel. This is a hope we can hang our hats on. Thanks be to God for God's unending love. Amen.

# \*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Rev. Susan Tindall

One: As a sign of our reconciliation with God and with one another, let us share the peace

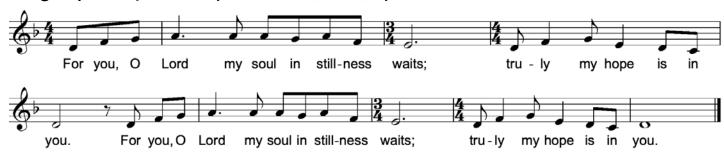
with one another. The Peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

\*Sung Response 89 refrain only

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits

MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS



Growing with God Kristin Duy

Following our time together, all children are invited go to Grace Space or sit with their parents

Prayer for Inspiration Michele

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-38

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word! This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Sing Stories of Hope

Rev. Beth Freese Dammers

#### \*Affirmation of Faith

We believe that hope can change the world. We believe that God uses ordinary people, like an unwed teenage mother, for extraordinary good.

And we believe that each of these ordinary people can make a difference.

We know that grief, fear, and suffering abound.

We know that suffering quells joy and makes it harder to hope. But we choose hope anyway. In the face of hardship, we hope together.

We hope with God.

We hope for a better world.

This is our song.

We believe; help our unbelief.

In Christ's name we pray, amen.

# Offering Our Gifts to God Invitation to Offering Offertory

O Come, O Come Emmanuel Clarion Bell Choir arr. Susan Geschke

aii. St



\*Doxology words 607, tune 606

606 Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

Michele

Michele

\*Prayer of Dedication

QRCode for Giving

# **Holy Communion**

Rev. Beth Freese Dammers & Rev. Susan Tindall

# Invitation to the Table

# **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

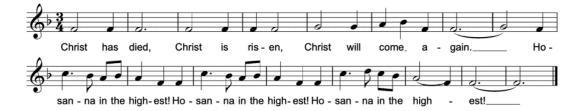
One: (prayer continues)

... at this table, giving us a song to sing with all creation:



One: (prayer continues)

...help us to boldly proclaim the great mystery of our faith:



(prayer continues)

Lord's Prayer (unison, using "sins")

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

# The Breaking of the Bread

### \*Communion of the People

Ushers will invite you to come forward for the receiving of communion.

All are invited to come to the table using the center aisle and return via the outside aisles.

The center station offers allergen-free wafers and prepackaged communion elements.

Any with mobility challenges will be served in the pews.

\*Hymn During Communion 507

Come to the Table of Grace

TABLE OF GRACE

#### **Prayer after Communion**

All: We give you thanks, O Lord, for once again you have filled us with good things—not just bread and wine, but your very self. Now may this glimpse of your kingdom sustain us and give us eyes to see you at work in every place, and strength to be your body in the world. Make us your people, again and again, light for the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

\*Hymn 119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing MENDELSSOHN

\*Charge and Blessing Beth

\*Postlude How Great Our Joy arr. Brian Chung

All speak emboldened type

USHERS: Andrew Petersen, Todd Petersen
ONLINE WORSHIP HOST: Linda Cirillo
LITURGIST: Michele Vickery
AV: Tristan Rush, Paul Abraham, Pat Garner

**ADVENT WREATH:** Tristan Rush, Robert Monson, Abby Petersen, Julia Lorenz, Willem Marginean

COMMUNION SET-UP: Todd Petersen COMMUNION SERVERS: Janice Bouchard, Jason Salbego, Kris Veenbaas

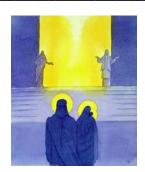
<sup>\*</sup> Please rise in spirit or body

# Next Sunday in Worship, December 31

**First Sunday of Christmas** 

9:30 am

Luke 2:21-38
We root ourselves in ritual



#### This week at CPC:

Sunday, December 24 Communion

9:30 am - Worship

7:00 pm — Christmas Eve Worship

9:00 pm — Christmas Eve Worship

Monday, December 25

**Church Office Closed** 

Tuesday, December 26 Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 27

Church Office OPEN 9:00 - 5:00

Thursday, December 28

Church Office OPEN 9:00 - 5:00

Friday, December 29

Church Office OPEN 9:00 - 3:00

Saturday, December 30

4:00 pm — Youth Alum winter reunion; Youth Lounge

Sunday, December 31 9:30 am — Worship

Monday, January 1

**Church Office Closed** 



#### **NURSERY CARE**

The Nursery will be staffed on **January 7**. It is located across from the church office on the

main floor and is always open and available for use, even when not staffed by our volunteers. Live stream of the worship service is available in the Nursery.

#### CPC Kids ~ 3yrs thru 5th grade

After Growing with God all children are invited to go back to Grace Space to participate in Nativity activities or sit with their family for the remainder of the worship service.



# CPC Youth Movie Night! 01/07 5-7:00pm

While formal youth activities are on break, middle school and high school students are invited to meet up for a movie night in the youth lounge on January



7th!! Wear your comfy cozies and bring a blanket for a relaxing end to the winter break. Dinner will be served and snacks will be shared! Looking forward to seeing you in the new year!



#### **BIBLE PRESENTATION SUNDAY**

#### Sunday, January 14

Join us as we present Bibles to our 3rd graders during worship service.

All kids in 3rd - 5th grade will then participate in our Bible Explorers group starting January 28. For three Sundays the kids will participate in this class that introduces/reinforces their use of the Bible.

#### **News of THE AMOS GROUP**

Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amos 5:24

#### Great Response to the Clothing Drive on Saturday, Dec. 16

Fourteen volunteers – 7 from CPC and 7 from Hinsdale South – received and sorted donated clothes in Fellowship Hall. We filled about a dozen construction-sized plastic bags from donations that were dropped off. Hinsdale South Student Support Coordinator Ayesha Truman sends a huge THANKS.



With your help, we are making a difference! Please send your questions, ideas or comments to Gregg Morton.

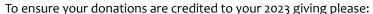


# CPC YOUTH ALUMNI WINTER REUNION Fri, Dec 29 Beginning at 4:00pm Youth Lounge

One of the best parts of the holidays is reconnecting with friends and family! We are so excited to welcome back our college aged students and hope you can join us for a winter reunion on December 29th. Join us for painting in the youth lounge, food and a time to simply be together. We look forward to seeing you! Contact Pastor Susan or Riley Roca with any questions!

#### YEAR-END GIVING

As we approach the end of the year, please consider additional financial gifts to the church. Whether you are completing your pledge for 2023 or providing a year-end gift, all gifts are important and deeply appreciated.



- Mail donations with a postmark no later than December 31
- Give on-line by December 28 at <a href="https://onrealm.org/cpc/-/form/give/now">https://onrealm.org/cpc/-/form/give/now</a>
- Bring your donation to church office by noon, Friday Dec 29
- NOTE: Office closed Mon Dec 25, Tues Dec 26



#### **LOOKING AHEAD to 2024**

Jan 7 Baptism of the Lord Sunday, Communion

Jan 14 3rd Grade Bible Sunday Ordination & Installation of Elders and Deacons

Jan 21 Ordination & Installation of Deacons and Elders

Jan 28 Guest Preacher / Teacher: Rev Dr Barbara Wilson

Feb 4 Annual Meeting of the Congregation following worship, Communion

Feb 11 Youth Sunday

Feb 14 Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:00 pm, Communion

#### KIDS' ACADEMY SAVE THE DATES



NOW - Registration for the 2024/25 School Year for current Kids' Academy families.

Monday, January 15 -Open registration for the 2024/25 School Year for new families.

Registration information will be updated to the Kids' Academy website shortly before that date.

Saturday January 20, Noon - 2:00 pm - Kids' Academy Open House

#### **ANNUAL MEETING & ALL CHURCH BRUNCH**

#### Sun Feb 4 following worship

Plan to be present to celebrate the joy and excitement! Following worship and communion, we'll delight in a homemade brunch, complete with Kris and Jack's candied BACON, highlights of 2023 and a round of CPC Jeopardy!! This intergenerational event will have activities for kids and adults alike!



Did someone say BACON?





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Pastor / Head of Staff
Transitional Associate Pastor
Director of Children & Family Ministries
Director of Kids' Academy
Assistant Director of Kids' Academy
Director of Music Ministries
Church Musician
Director of Digital Platforms
Co-Director of Older Adult Ministries
Co-Director of Older Adult Ministries
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